

# *Alicia Cortez Elementary School*



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Gerald Matthews, Ed. D., Principal

Amy Fauce, M. Ed., Assistant Principal

Hello Cortez Elementary families and welcome to the 2022-23 school year!

I am Dr. Gerald Matthews, the newly assigned Principal at Alicia Cortez Elementary. I am honored to begin my 16<sup>th</sup> year in education serving as Principal at Cortez, in the school district where my family and I lived for 17 years. During my last 15 years in the field of education, I served as an Elementary Classroom Teacher for 11 years, followed by four years as an Assistant Principal.

The physical and emotional well-being of everyone in the Cortez School community is important to me. I look forward to working with families, school staff, and community members to continue to build a school community wherein everyone feels safe, supported, valued, and respected. I want to listen with curiosity to learn about those things that are important to you for the well-being of everyone.

At Cortez Elementary we have an amazing team of dedicated professionals. We work as a Professional Learning Community, using data and research-based strategies to guide our discussions, decisions, and actions. Our goal is to have a school environment that supports the individual emotional well-being and academic success of every student. I extend a personal invitation for you to join in the conversations and decision-making by taking advantage of opportunities to communicate with your student's teacher and the school administrators, and by becoming involved in committees at Cortez.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gerald Matthews, Principal